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Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, why no gruel centres were opened in Andimadam firka which is comparatively more deficit than Srimushnam firka? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The test is not whether it is a 'deficit area'. The test is whether famine conditions prevail."

Sri V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" Are these gruel centres now working throughout the district of South Arcot? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I believe some centres are working."

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the famine conditions in Andimadam firka are not so very acute as they are in Srimushnam firka? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice, Sir."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" As some areas of South Arcot district are still famine affected, will the Government consider opening more gruel centres wherever necessary? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir, if the conditions warrant, the Government will certainly do so."

Sri V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" Is it a fact that instructions have been issued to the Collector of South Arcot to close the gruel centres in Gingee and Tindivanam taluks? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No special instructions have been issued in respect of Tindivanam. There were general instructions issued to all the District Collectors long ago."

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the intention of the Government that the opening of gruel centres or affording of relief measures is to be in proportion to the support forthcoming from the parties concerned? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, I strongly refute the insinuation. Gruel centres are opened wherever distress prevails."

Shooting incident in Salem jail.

* 21 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state what action the Government have taken against the officers who were responsible for the continuance of the shooting till ammunition was exhausted and for using excessive force in Salem jail as some members of the Salem Shooting Enquiry Committee have remarked in their report?

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THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" After a careful consideration of the Committee's Report the Government accepted the findings of the Chairman of the Committee that the Jail staff had adequate justification for opening the fire, that it could not be said that excessive force was used and that it could not be said that it was possible to exercise any more restraint. There was, therefore, no question of any action being taken against the warders. That the warders did only what they should have done under the circumstances will also be seen from the observations of the members that the warders deserved great credit for their initiative and sense of duty, that if they had not shown initiative in opening fire and using force, the prisoners who belonged to the Communist Party might have gone out of control and broken loose and the habitual prisoners might have caught the infection and that the warders displayed commendable sense of duty by not running away and by staying on to face the situation."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN:—" May I know, Sir, the names of officers who were responsible for shooting the unarmed prisoners till the ammunition was finished and whether any cash rewards or promotions were given to such officers? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" A separate question may be asked, Sir."

Formation of a Kerala Linguistic State.

* 22 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the State Government have made any recommendation to the Central Government for the formation of a Kerala Linguistic State?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN:—" Have the Government received reports of the strong feelings of the people of Kerala for the early formation of the Kerala State, and if so, what action the Government propose to take to fulfil the long-cherished demand of Kerala people? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Without granting the premise, Sir, I may say that the question will be entirely and fully considered by the Government of India."

DR. K. B. MENON:—" May I know, Sir, what the policy of the Government now is in regard to the formation of linguistic States? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" This Government have no policy in respect of such large matters."